of the fashion: and sung those tunes to the over-scutched[2] huswives that he heard the carmen whistle, and sware—they were his fancies, or his good-nights[3]. And now is this Vice's dagger[4] be-

fol. 1597, p. 41, speaking *of mandrake,* says: "—this hearbe is called also *anthropomorphos,* because it beareth the image of a man: and that is false. For no herbe hath the shape of a man or woman; no truly, it is not naturall of his owne growing: but by the crafty invention of some false men it is done by arte."—"My friend Marcellus, the description of this *mandrake,* as I have sayd, was nothing but the imposterous subtility of wicked people. Perhaps of fryers or superstitious monkes which have wrytten thereof at length; but as for Dioscorides, Galen, and Plinie, &c. they have not wrytten thereof so largely as for to have head, armes, fyngers." &c. REED.

See a former scene of this play, p. 24, n. 9; and Sir Thomas Brown's Vulgar Errors, p. 72, edit. 1686. MALONE.

*—over-scuTCHED—] That is, whipt, carted. POPE.

I rather think that the word means *dirty* or *grimed.* The word *huswives* agrees better with this sense. Shallow crept into mean houses, and boasted his accomplishments to *dirty* women. JOHNSON.

Ray, among his north country words, says that *an over-switched huswife* is a strumpet. *Over-scutched* has undoubtedly the meaning which Mr. Pope has affixed to it. *Over-scutched* is the same as *over-scotched.* A *scutch* or *scotch* is a *cut* or *lash* with a rod or whip. STEEVENS.

The following passage in Maroccus Extaticus, or Bankes* Bay Horse in a Traunce, 4to. 1595, inclines me to believe that this word is used in a wanton sense: "The leacherous landlord hath his wench at his commandment, and is content to take ware for his money: his private *scutcherie* hurts not the commonwealth farther than that his whoore shall have a house rent-free." MALONE.

3 — FANCIES, or his GOOD-NIGHTS.] *Fancies* and *Good-nights* were the titles of little poems. One of Gascoigne's *Good-nights* is published among his *Flowers.* STEEVENS.

^ And now is this VICE'S dagger—] By *Vice* here the poet means that droll character in the old plays (which I have several

times mentioned in the course of these notes) equipped with asses ears and a wooden dagger. It was very satirical in Falstaff to compare Shallow's activity and impertinence to such a machine as a wooden dagger in the hands and management of a buffoon.

THEOBALD.

See vol. xi. p. 479, n. 9. STEEVENS.

Vice was the name given to a droll figure, heretofore much shown upon our stage, and brought in to play the fool and make sport for the populace. His dress was always a long* jerkin, a